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vil, and the other end of the auvil is attached to the arch of the stirrup. Impressions of sound received by the membrane of the drum are conveyed by this chain of bones across the drum to the labyrinth. The bones are supplied with muscles, by which they can be moved within certain limits. The internal or sentient part of the ear is on the farther side of the drum; it is called the labyrinth from its complicated structure. It consists of three parts, called the vestibule, snail shell, and semicircular canals: these parts are all hollowed out of the solid bone. The vestibule contains a very thin membranous bag, which spreads offsets or branches into the semicircular canals; the interior of this bag, and of the offsets, contains a liquid which is entirely shut up in this membranous bag with its offsets, and has no communication with any thing outside: again the space between this bag, and the bony shell by which it is contained, is filled by a meshwork of exceedingly delicate fibres, and the interstices of these fibres are filled with liquid, so that commencing from the outside you have,

1st. The bony exterior or case.

2dly. A space filled with a transparent liquid, contained in a net-work so delicate that the liquid seems quite at large.

3dly. The membranous bag, having very nearly the shape of the vestibule and semicircular canals.

Lastly. On the interior of the bag, and washed by the liquid which it contains, is spread the auditory nerve coming from the brain, and penetrating, first the bone, and afterwards the membranous bag contained in the bone. From this description you will understand that any sonorous impression from without, before it can be perceived by the mind, is first collected by the external trumpet of the ear, and directed into the external passage; then received by the membrane of the drum, and communicated from thence by the bones of the drum to the labyrinth, where it sets in vibration the liquid outside the membranous bag, then the bag itself, then its liquid contents, and last of all the expansion of the auditory nerve. While the parts constituting the essential organ of hearing contained in the labyrinth are of such extreme delicacy and tenuity as scarcely to be capable of examination by our instruments of sense, the bony case in which they are situated consists of the firmest and hardest bone in the body, so as to be technically called the petrous or rocky portion of the temple bone.

As it is of more use to be able to hear sounds coming from before than from behind, the external ear is formed for catching sounds coming from before, by its concavity having a slight direction forward. In the same degree as this structure is favorable for catching sounds coming from before, it is unfavourable for catching sounds coming from behind; but the inclination in the human ear is so inconsiderable, and the opening so patulous, that we can distinctly hear sounds in whatever direction they may come. In quadrupeds the external ear is more in the form of a tube than it is in man, and, therefore, does not so readily catch sounds coming in any other direction than that of the open mouth of the tube. To counteract this defect, animals have a considerable power of moving the external ear so as to turn the open mouth of the tube towards that quarter from which the sounds come. Birds are without an external ear, similar to that possessed by man and quadrupeds, but sometimes the feathers are arranged so as to form a very perfect apparatus for carrying sounds into the external passage; this may be seen in the owl. Birds have the drum and membrane of the drum, but their labyrinth is less perfect than the labyrinth of the higher classes of animals.

Rory Oge M'Quillan, of Dunluce Castle, could trace his family from their departure from Babylon, three thousand years ago, whence they came to Scotland, and being called Chaldeans, gave origin to the corruption of the word Caledonians: the M'Quillans afterwards removed to Ireland.

As trees with submission bow down to the blast,  
So we when we sigh must remember the past,

### THE HAPPY SHEPHERD—A SONG.

Yes, Phillis, we'll trip o'er the meads,  
And hasten away to the plain;  
Where shepherds attend with their reeds,  
To welcome my love and her swain;  
The lark is exalted in air,  
The linnet sings perch'd on the spray;  
Our lambs stand in need of our care,  
Then let us not lengthen delay.

The pleasure I feel with my dear,  
While gamesome young lambs are at sport,  
Exceeds the delight of a peer,  
That shines with such grandeur at court:  
While Colin and Strephon go by,  
They form a disguise for awhile;  
They see how I'm blessed with a sigh,  
But envy forbids them to smile.

Let great folks of liberty prate,  
T' enjoy it take infinite pains;  
But liberty's primitive state  
Is only enjoyed on the plains.  
With Phillis I rove to and fro—  
With her my gay minutes are spent;  
'Twas Phillis first taught me to know,  
That happiness flows from content.

M. H.

### LINES WRITTEN BY THE SEA SIDE.

One evening, as the sun went down  
Gilding the mountains bare and brown,  
I wandered on the shore;  
And such a blaze o'er ocean spread,  
And beauty on the meek earth shed,  
I never saw before.

I was not lonely: dwellings fair  
Were scattered round and shining there  
Gay groups were on the green  
Of children, wild with reckless glee,  
And parents that could child-like be,  
With them and in that scene.

And on the sea, that looked of gold,  
Each toy-like skiff and vessel bold  
Glided, and yet seemed still;  
While sounds rose on the quiet air,  
That mingling made sweet music there,  
Surpassing minstrel's skill.

The breezy murmur from the shore,  
Joy's laugh re-echoed o'er and o'er  
Alike by sire and child;  
The whistle-shrill, the broken song,  
The far-off flute-notes lingering long,  
The lark's strain rich and wild.

'Twas sunset in the world around,  
And, looking inwards, so I found  
'Twas sun-set in the soul;  
Nor grief, nor mirth were burning there,  
But musings sweet, and visions fair,  
In placid beauty stole.

But moods like these the human mind  
Though seeking oft, may seldom find,  
Nor, finding, force to stay;  
As dews upon the drooping flower,  
That, having shone their little hour,  
Dry up, or fall away.

But though all pleasures take their flight,  
Yet some will leave memorials bright  
For many an after year;  
The sun-set that dull night will shade  
These visions, which must quickly fade,  
Will half-immortal memory braid,  
For me, when far from here.